(b) if so, the details thereof and the loss suffered by Government as a result thereof; and

(c) the name and designation of the officers of the said press who has been notified to act as the Estate Officer under Section 3 of the Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971 in the Official Gazette?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) Number of vacant quarters under Minto Road Press pool during February 2003 to March 2004 is as under-

| Type | I | II | III | IV | V |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Number | NIL | 37 | 27 | 8 | 1 |

As the vacancies were a result of the Government's plan to re-develop the Minto Road area, the question of loss incurred by the Government on this account does not arise.

(c) As per S.0.1949 published in the Gazette of India dated 1st August 1987, Manager, Government of India Press (Letter Press Unit), Minto Road, New Delhi has been appointed as Estate Officer in exercise of the powers conferred by Section 3 of the Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971 in respect of the Public premises including land and buildings under his administrative control.

**Model Municipal Laws**

425. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have drafted a Model 'Municipal Law for adoption by the States/UTs;

(b) if so, the salient provisions of the proposed model law; and

(c) whether Government have circulated the draft law amongst the States/ UTs to elicit their views and comments thereon?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The salient provisions of the Model Municipal law are:—

- Constitution of municipal areas and classification of municipalities.

- Functional domain of municipalities - functions classified in terms of core, assigned by Government and others.
- Financial domain; Municipality shall have power to levy various types of taxes, user charges, fees and fines, etc.
- Municipalities may raise loan by issue of debentures or otherwise for specified purposes subject to comprehensive debt limitation policy of the State Government.
- Provision for Wards Committees.
- Re-election of dissolved council within six months.
- Provision for recall of municipal councillor.
- Provision for preparation of municipal accounting manual, separating out capital and revenues heads.
- Provisions for separate accounting heads for water supply, road, etc. and preparation of annual balance sheets by municipalities.
- Provision for appointment of a Municipal Accounts' Committee.
- Flexibility in Property Tax assessment system.
- Participation of private sector, Non-Governmental Organizations and community Based Organizations in delivery of services and collection of service charges.
- State-level regulatory commission on municipal services.
- Provision for implementation of development plans by municipalities.
- Enabling provisions for rain water harvesting and use of non-conventional energy sources.

(c) Yes, Sir. The draft Model Municipal Law was circulated to all States/ UTs to elicit their views/comments in April, 2003. Based on the comments received from the States/UTs by the stipulated time, the draft Model Municipal Law was finalized and circulated to all States/UTs in October, 2003 for necessary action.

**Pathetic conditions of Jamuna Ghats**

426. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the prevailing pathetic conditions